

5 Proverbs for Singles

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If God gives you a gift, you must use it to bless others.

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Proverbs 3:27

God does extraordinary things through ordinary obedience.

"And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me." Genesis 22:18

Don't follow your heart, inform it.

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

Jeremiah 17:9

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

2 Timothy 3:16

Change your playmates and your playground.

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

1 Corinthians 15:33

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

If you like what you've got, keep doing what you're doing.

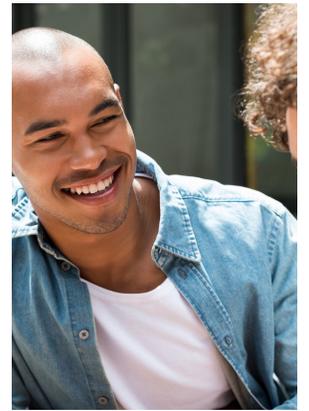
Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2



SINGLE AND THRIVING

Enemies of the Heart



WHAT ABOUT SIN?

We all sin -- A LOT. If you don't think you do, ask those who live with you.

Do we know how to effectively fight against our particular sins?

Are we strategic with our aim?

We often try to first change our behavior. Maybe add a few new rules. Watch what we say.

How often does that usually last? Our real problems lie deeper.

It won't benefit us to guard our behavior more closely. Our words and deeds are simply a gauge of what's going on inside.

THE BIG 4

Four looming sins are at the root of many other sins. Practically every conflict and relational wound you've experienced can be traced back to one of the following:

GUILT

GREED

ANGER

JEALOUSY

But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and those things defile the person. Matthew 15:18

THE POWER OF DEBT

The debt-to-debtor dynamic is the uncomfortable feeling you get when you think you owe somebody something, or they owe you. (If we're honest, at times we may think that "somebody" is God).

If you've ever been in a situation where someone owed you money and refused to pay, you know that the person owed can feel as powerless and as put upon as a person who's in debt. It all depends upon the personalities (and the arrogance) of those involved.

Either way, things aren't even. Someone has the upper hand. There's an imbalance.

GUILT

"I owe you."

ANGER

"You owe me"

GREED

"I owe me"

JEALOUSY

"God owes me"

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26

4 HEART MEDICINES

There are only two ways to resolve this kind of tension: Either somebody has to pay up, or somebody has to cancel the debt. As long as the debt is unpaid or unforgiven, the debt governs the relationship.

To free your heart from guilt, **CONFESS.**

Not just to God, but to all offended parties. Confess to change, not just to relieve a guilty conscience.

To eliminate greed, **GIVE.**

Ask yourself, "Why do I have so much? Why do I already have more than I need?" Ask God, "what do you want me to do with my extra?"

Don't wait for God to change your heart before you start giving; start giving as the opening for him to change your heart.

How will we take care of these hearts? Proverbs 4:23

To remove your anger, **FORGIVE.**

Make the choice to forgive; don't wait for the feeling. Forgive specifically for what you think was taken from you. Cancel the debt so the offending party no longer owes you anything.

To rid yourself of jealousy, **CELEBRATE.**

Jealousy begins when we don't get what we want. Make a habit of congratulating others for their accomplishments, even if you don't want to.

MAKE IT ROUTINE: Pray for an establishment of godly habits to root out temptations. Settle your outstanding debts with yourself, with others, and with God. That's what he's done with us.

His grace changed our debt-to-debtor dynamic forever. He paid the price and canceled our debt to give us a new heart.